

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 061605Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4049
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12467

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV IT MZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MOZAMBICAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE GAVE US READOUT
JULY 6 OF VISIT EARLIER THIS WEEK OF MOZAMBICAN FOREIGN MINISTER
CHISSANO. CHISSANO MET WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI
AND ATTENDED LUNCH GIVEN BY MFA UNDER SECRETARY RADI. RACHELE
SAID THAT FOLLOWING WERE SUBJECTS COVERED IN TALKS.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS. RACHELE DESCRIBED ITALIAN-MOZAMBICAN
RELATIONS AS "VERY GOOD". ITALIANS ARE INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF
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TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE, ESPECIALLY IN
FIELD OF HEALTH CARE.

ZIMBABWE. ACCORDING TO RACHELE, CHISSANO WAS "PURIST
IN PRINCIPLE" ABOUT RESOLUTION TO ZIMBABWE SITUATION:
SETTLEMENT HAD TO TAKE PLACE ALONG LINES DESIRED BY MUGABE
AND ZANU. ITALIANS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MOZAMBICANS

FEEL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL NECESSITY OF REACHING SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ZIMBABWE AND THEY WANT TO LIMIT SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE AREA. THEREFORE THEY ARE WILLING TO ENVISION A COMPROMISE SOLUTION INVOLVING PATRIOTIC FRONT AND PARTICIPANTS IN CUREENT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT FORMAULA. CHISSANO SAID THAT MOZAMBIQUE STILL SUPPORTS ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS (ALTHOUGH HE IS DISTRUSTFUL OF BRITISH INTENTIONS) AND FAVORS THE IDEA OF AN ENLARGED CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE WOULD BE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES: THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE ONE HAND AND THE SMITH-MOZOREWA-SITHOLE GROUP (ALONG WITH THE BRITISH) ON THE OTHER. CHISSANO ADDED THAT SALISBURY AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE STARTING POINT FOR NEGOTIATIONS; DISCUSSION WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING.

4. ZAIRE. CHISSANO SAID THAT MOZAMBICANS FEEL THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MOBUTU FALLS. REBELLIONS NOT ONLY IN SHABA BUT ALSO IN TOHER PROVINCES SHOW THAT REGIME IS UNDER GENERAL ATTACK. UNLIKE ANGOLANS, MOZAMBICANS STILL HAVE HOPES THAT KATANGESE CAN CARRY OUT SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST MOBUTU. CHISSANO MADE IT CLEAR THAT MOZAMBIQUE OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AREA AND IS AGAINST IDEA OF PAN AFRICAN FORCE.

5. ERITREA. CHISSANO SAID THAT MOZAMBICANS WHO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLES LIBERATION FRONT IN ERITREA,
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FAVOR POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM. THEY RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING AGREEMENT BUT WOULD SUPPORT SOME KIND OF CONFEDERATION OF ERITREA WITH ETHIOPIA. THEY MADE IT CLEAR TO ITALIANS THAT WHILE THEY UNDERSTOOD REASONS FOR SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN OGANDEN WHICH WAS CLEARCUT CASE OF AGGRESSION, THEY OPPOSE SUCH INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA. GARDNER

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